



UNITED STATES SENATOR • NEBRASKA

**CHUCK HAGEL**

P R E S S   R E L E A S E



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Contact: Joy Ditto  
202-224-4224

## **Senate Approves Funding for Health & Human Services and Education**

Washington, D.C. – The U.S. Senate today approved funding for the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (Labor HHS) Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2001 by a vote of 52 to 43. Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE) voted in favor of the measure.

“This bill provides crucial funding for programs important to Nebraska like medical research, special education, and Impact Aid while at the same time consolidating cumbersome social programs,” said Hagel. “The measure also prioritizes accountability and safety in our school systems without diminishing local control.”

The bill includes funding for the following programs of importance to Nebraska:

- \$7 billion for special education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which is \$1 billion above President Clinton’s request. Hagel supported legislation which would have further increased funding for IDEA.
- \$1.03 billion for Impact Aid, which is \$260 million above the President’s request. Impact Aid benefits school districts servicing military bases and Indian Reservations. This funding level was requested by Hagel in a letter to members of the committee.
- \$6 million for National Poison Control Centers. Omaha’s National Poison Control Center provides poison information via a toll-free hotline for residents of Nebraska and Wyoming and serves as a clearinghouse for poison control research and treatment. Hagel wrote a letter in support of increased funding.

The Labor HHS bill also directs the National Institutes of Health to coordinate research and funding for Fragile X. This inherited disorder is the most common cause of mental retardation. The language included in the Labor HHS bill is a result of legislation introduced last year by Senator Hagel to authorize \$10 million for research and prevention this crippling disorder.

The House passed its version of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill on June 14 by a vote of 217-214. A joint House-Senate conference will soon convene to reconcile the two versions of the bill.

